GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5212
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
LUXURY CRUISE SERVICES
Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable decline in the number of sea-route passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons in this regard;

(c) whether a policy on cruise-shipping has been formulated and approved;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce Luxury Cruise services in the country on the pattern in Europe and other developed Western countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. During the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the number of cruise tourists who visited India was 27,760, 1,52,827 and 2,40,307 respectively.

(c) to (f): A High Power Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways with the Union Minister of Tourism & Culture as Co-Chairperson was set up to formulate a cruise shipping policy with the objective of making India a major cruise tourism destination for attracting the right segment of foreign cruise tourists and for popularising cruise shipping, facilitating creation of requisite infrastructure and creating a conducive environment. The cruise shipping policy is under finalization.